

GOVERNOR BARBOUR SETS SPECIAL ELECTION DATE

Voters will go to polls on April 22 to fill U.S. House seat

(JACKSON, Mississippi) – Governor Haley Barbour has set April 22, 2008, as the date for a special election to fill the unexpired term of former U.S. Rep. and current U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker in Mississippi's First Congressional District.

In a Writ of Election filed with the Mississippi Secretary of State, the Governor said if a runoff is required, it would be held on May 13, 2008. He designated March 7, 2008, as the qualifying deadline for candidates in the special U.S. House election.

"This schedule will ensure that Senator Wicker's former U.S. House seat will be filled in a manner appropriate under the terms of state statutes," Governor Barbour said. The winning candidate in the special election will serve the remainder of the unexpired term; the seat will be filled on a permanent basis in the general election on November 4, 2008.

Wicker's seat became officially vacant when he resigned on December 31, 2007, to accept an appointment by Governor Barbour to fill the unexpired term of former U.S. Sen. Trent Lott.

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